

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings claims in the application.

1. **(original)** An image display apparatus, comprising:

a condensing optical system for changing illumination light from a light source to converging light;

a color separation optical system having a color separation optical member for reflecting a color light component in a specific wavelength range of said converging light and transmitting color light components in the other wavelength ranges;

a plurality of image display devices illuminated by a plurality of color light components separated by said color separation optical system, respectively,

a color combination optical system for combining image light components of a plurality of colors emanating from said plurality of image display devices; and

a projection optical system for projecting image light components combined by said color combination optical system on a surface on which projection is performed,

wherein an optical axis of light incident on said color separation optical member forms an angle smaller than 45 degrees with a normal to a light incident surface of said color separation optical member.

Claims 2-11 are cancelled.

12. **(new).** An image display apparatus, comprising:

a polarization converting element which converts the polarization direction of light from a light source;

a condensing optical system which converts light from the polarization converting element to a converging light;

a color separation optical system which comprises a color separation optical member reflecting a first light in a first wavelength range of the converging light and transmitting a second light in a second wavelength range of the converging light;

a plurality of image display devices illuminated by a plurality of color light separated by the color separation optical system; and

a projection optical system which projects light from the plurality of image display devices on a projection surface,

wherein an optical axis of light incident on the color separation optical member forms an angle smaller than 45 degrees with a normal to a color separation surface of the color separation optical member.

13. **(new).** The image display apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

two fly-eye lenses disposed between the light source and the polarization converting element.

14. **(new).** An image display apparatus comprising:

a polarization converting element which converts a polarization direction of light from a light source;

a condensing optical system which converts light from the polarization converting element to a converging light;

a color separation optical system which comprises a color separation optical member reflecting a first light in a first wavelength range of the converging light and transmitting a second light in a second wavelength range of the converging light;

a plurality of image display devices illuminated by a plurality of color light separated by the color separation optical system; and

an outer box which contains the polarization converting element, condensing optical system, color separation optical system and plurality of image display devices,

wherein a wall surface closest to the color separation optical member among wall surfaces of the outer box is substantially parallel to an outer edge, which is close to the closest wall surfaces, of the converging light incident on the color separation optical member.

15. (new). An image display apparatus comprising:

a polarization converting element which converts the polarization direction of light from a light source;

a condensing optical system which converts light from the polarization converting element to a converging light;

a color separation optical system which comprises a color separation optical member reflecting a first light in a first wavelength range of the converging light and transmitting a second light in a second wavelength range of the converging light;

a plurality of image display devices illuminated by a plurality of color light separated by the color separation optical system; and

a projection optical system which projects light from the plurality of image display devices on a projection surface,

wherein an outer edge, which is farthest from the projection optical system, of the converging light incident on the color separation optical member is substantially perpendicular to an optical axis of the projection optical system.